

Ethylene Oxide: Technical Reviews and Outreach to Potentially Affected Communities

Status Report - Third Quarter 2021 Update

July – September 2021

As EPA pursues its mission to protect public health and the environment, addressing ethylene oxide remains a major priority for the Agency. EPA's National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA), released in August 2018, identified a number of areas of the country where risks of cancer were potentially elevated because of ethylene oxide emissions. NATA estimated risk based on emissions from 2014, which were the most recently available at the time.

Because NATA is a screening-level analysis, additional work is needed to better understand emissions in areas NATA identifies as potentially having elevated risk, and to identify opportunities for early reductions at individual facilities, while EPA reviews its regulations for industries. EPA is supporting its state air agency partners in that work.

In January 2021, EPA posted a status report describing the technical analysis and outreach work conducted for B. Braun Medical Inc, (Braun) located in Allentown, PA. This document summarizes any additional work conducted in the third quarter of 2021.

Note: EPA is compiling more current and complete emissions data to generate new risk estimates for the more than 100 EtO sterilizers across the country as part of its work to develop a proposed revision for the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for EtO sterilization facilities. These estimates will replace the NATA estimates and could include additional facilities. EPA will share this information with the public as part of its upcoming proposed rule.

Actions to date:

- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has continued to take the lead for Braun and has not requested any R3 support as this time.

Outreach updates:

- R3 is coordinating nationally to develop EPA-led community outreach as the revised commercial sterilizers rule is proposed. R3 plans to reach out to PADEP and high risk facilities as plans for the community outreach are finalized.